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MACNOW SAYS GOOD RIDDANCE 2015

Philly sports had their worst collective season since 1972. 28 -31

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Chicago cops kill two; families want answers. 14

#2015

All the moments that mattered in movies, TV, pop culture and more. 16-24

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CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES

1 More than 400 California firefighters were battling to contain a final stretch of wildfire that had caused the partial closure of a major highway and forced evacuations northwest of Los Angeles, officials said. The fire charred more than 1,200 acres between the coastal cities of Ventura and Carpentaria. Firefighters had dug containment lines around 70 percent of the blaze. REUTERS

STORMS KILL AT LEAST 34

2 Deadly storms hit Southern and central U.S. states over the Christmas holiday, unleashing floods and tornadoes that killed at least 34 people, toppled buildings and snarled transportation for millions during a busy travel time. At least 11 people were killed in the Dallas area over the weekend by tornadoes, including one packing winds of up to 200 miles per hour. The twister hit the city of Garland, killing eight people and blowing vehicles off highways. REUTERS

'STAR WARS' CROSSES $1B

3 "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" showed few signs of flagging over Christmas weekend, barreling past the $1 billion mark globally at a faster clip than any film in history. It's becoming old hat to recount the various ways that the film is vaporizing records. REUTERS

7 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

NO SNOW ON THE COURT

7 Sixt Hakim Noel of Germantown shoots hoops at a basketball court on Lemon Hill in Fairmount Park in Philadelphia on Sunday.

MAIN PHOTO BY JEFF FUSCO, ALL OTHER PHOTOS BY GETTY IMAGES

XMAS SHOOTER FOUND

5 The search for a Bronx man who allegedly shot his wife in front of their two young children — after the woman asked for a divorce — ended Saturday after he was caught in Maryland. Rafael Herrera was located and taken into custody in Prince George, Maryland, police said, after fleeing Christmas morning when he allegedly shot his wife, Yadira Perea Saavedra, in their home at 967 E. 220th St. in Williamsbridge. METRO

IRAQI ARMY VICTORY

5 Iraq's army declared victory over Islamic State fighters in a provincial capital west of Baghdad, the first major triumph for the U.S.-trained force since it collapsed in the face of an assault by the militants 18 months ago. The capture of Ramadi, capital of mainly Sunni-Muslim Anbar province in the Euphrates River valley west of the capital, deprives Islamic State militants of their biggest prize of 2015. The fighters seized it in May after government troops fled in a defeat. REUTERS

MAYFAIR TEEN ATTACKED

6 A teenager in Northeast Philly claims he was the victim of a random group assault this weekend, leaving him with three staples in his head and a bruised rib. The 14-year-old boy and his cousin, 15, were attacked on Vandike Street around 4:45 p.m., NBC reported. A group of 10 to 12 teenagers approached the victim, asked if he knew a boy named "Robert," and when he said no, began to attack him. SAM NEWHOUSE

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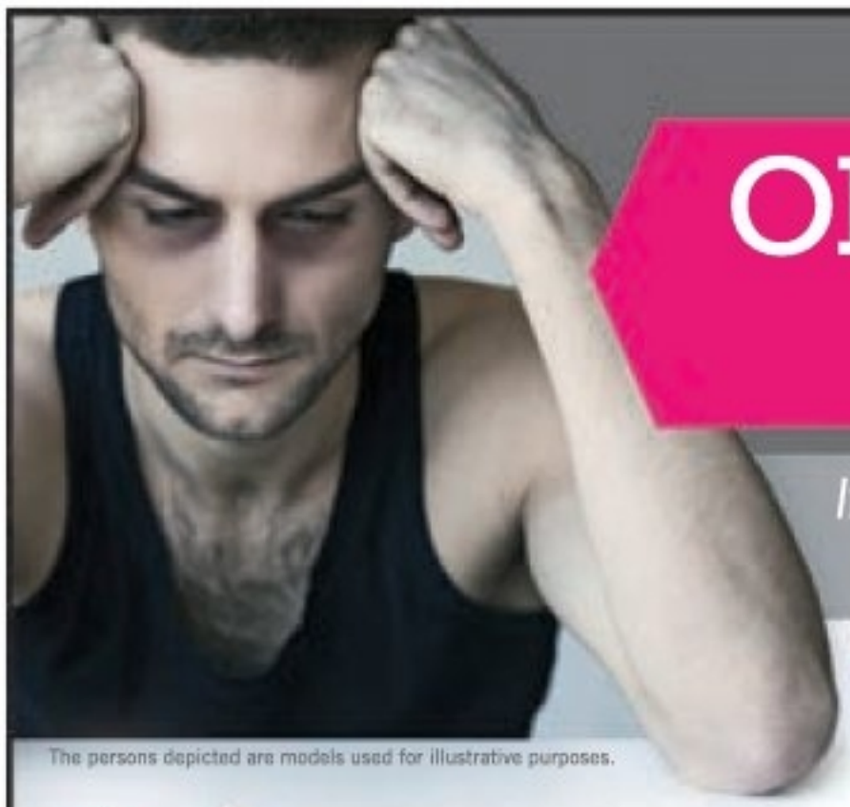

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2015's top 5 quirkiest stories

Philly news included the weird, wonderful and downright odd.

SAM NEWHOUSE
@scnewhouse
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This year had its ups and downs, but it also had its fair share of downright bizarre, head-scratching "What the?!" moments. Don't believe us? Here's a look back at the top five quirkiest stories of 2015.

1 HitchBot

Only a select group of robotics enthusiasts were aware of the Canadian-made lovable hitch-hiking robot "HitchBot," an experiment in testing the lengths of human kindness by seeing how far the robot could hitch-hike across the world.

Everything changed when HitchBot got to Philly in August. On its first night it was left in an alley, brutally dismembered, and photographs of the metallic wreckage were sent to its creators using HitchBot's built-in camera.

Local YouTube comedians Jesse Welle and Ed Bassmaster were the last people to see HitchBot fully functioning. They released a prank video purporting to show HitchBot's demise in a bid for more media attention.

At this time there are no plans to rebuild HitchBot or send him out into the world again.

2 Porngate

As contempt charges were upheld against embattled Attorney General Kathleen Kane, she took a shot at the old tactic of misdirection — releasing to the public pornographic, racist and misogynistic emails swapped on state servers by prosecutors in August.

Kane claims she was the victim of a conspiracy attempting to shield those emails. Whether or not that's true, the ensuing "Porngate" scandal has led to the retirement of a Supreme Court justice, the firing of several other state officials, and the call for three Philly prosecutors who received the emails to be fired.

Kane is vowing to release even more of the alleged thousands of emails that she has found on state servers.

3 Ice House

A scorching fire at a West Philly medical center during the deep freeze of last February yielded the "ice house" as water sprayed on the fire froze into massive icicles over the building, which later was condemned and razed.

4 Philly Spidey

In the summer, not to be outdone by Philly Jesus, an anonymous man began donning the costume of Spiderman and appearing in LOVE Park. "Philly Spidey" has recently gone underground, but still has an active presence on social media and could return at any moment.

5 Springtime in winter

Another oddball story of 2015 has unfolded over the past month. One year after Philly and the East Coast were hit by one of the hardest winters ever, the city has seen a snowless December with record-breaking warms reaching as high as the mid-70s on Christmas Day.

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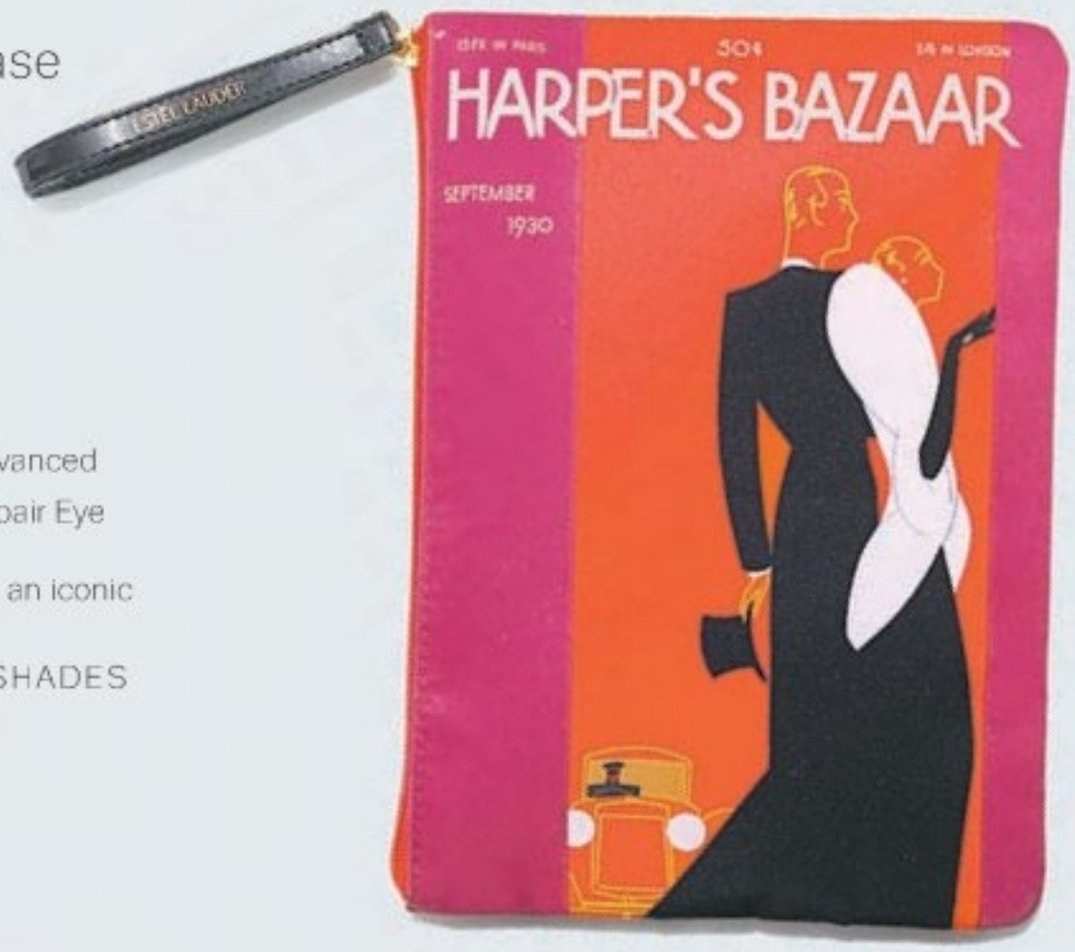

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Pope Francis GETTY IMAGES

2015's 5 most important stories

Here are the stories that kept Philadelphians transfixed.

SAM NEWHOUSE
@scnewhouse
sam.newhouse@metro.us

When we look back at 2015, these are the stories that we will remember most.

1 Sgt. Robert Wilson III

On March 5, Officer Robert Wilson stopped in to a North Philly Gamestop for a security check and to buy a game for his son's birthday. Minutes later two armed gunmen ran inside to rob the store. Instead, they fatally shot Wilson as he tried to stop them. Both were arrested minutes later.

In the months since, Wilson was promoted to sergeant and received heartfelt memorials from the city, from fellow police and even from President Barack Obama. A plaque was dedicated at the scene of Wilson's death, and a new medal of valor was renamed in his honor for his efforts to protect customers inside the store at risk to his own life.

2 Soon-to-be Mayor Jim Kenney

Jim Kenney ditched his City Council seat after 23 years just four months before the Democratic primary for mayoral candidates, and almost immediately became the front-runner.

Kenney ran a Barack Obama-style progressive hope-and-change campaign. After a landslide win in May and a perfunctory campaign against the Republicans, he is set to take the reins at City Hall Jan. 4.

3 Chaka Fattah Sr. and Jr.

The legal issues of the Fattah family ramped up significantly in 2015. Seven-term Congressman Chaka Fattah Sr. was indicted on fraud charges in July — one year to the day after his son was indicted on fraud charges — and is now fighting the case while continuing to occupy his office in Washington, D.C., and preparing for a reelection campaign in 2016.

Meanwhile, Fattah Jr., after acting as his own lawyer despite his lack of legal training, was convicted in November. He is scheduled to be sentenced Feb. 2 and is expected to face around four years.

4 Pope Francis

After months of anticipation, Francis, the "cool pope," descended on Philadelphia in September, bringing thousands of devout Catholics to be in the presence of the Holy Father and to attend the World Meeting of Families.

For locals, the Pope's visit was either a chance to make or lose money, depending on your line of business. For taxpayers, it was recently revealed that the city picked up half the event's tab — about $8 million. Was it worth it? That depends on how much you like the pope.

5 Amtrak #188

An Amtrak traveling at dangerous speeds hit a curve in Port Richmond and derailed in May, causing a crash that killed eight and left hundreds hurt. The tragedy led to national attention and raised the issue of rail safety.

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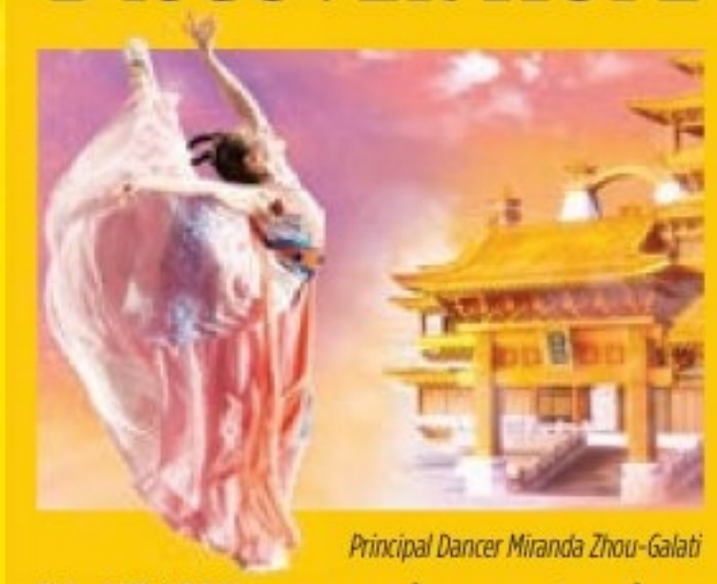
— Wendy Pini, author

Discover Hope



Principal Dancer Miranda Zhou-Galati

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Philly stories to watch in 2016

Here's the news that people in Philly need to know about going forward in to the new year.

SAM NEWHOUSE
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Pennsylvania Attorney General Kathleen Kane CHARLES MOSTOLLER

1 Can Kenney and Wolf lead?

Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf has been in Harrisburg for about a year after being elected largely on a pro-public-education platform. Jim Kenney will take office in City Hall on Jan. 4 after a similar campaign with schools at its core. Both are opposed to the expansion of charter schools.

But Wolf had to give up his plan for a 5 percent fracking tax to fund schools as oil prices plummeted, and is six months late on a state budget — in part over disagreements on how to raise education funding.

Meanwhile, Philly schools superintendent William Hite has warned the city's public schools, which operate in a constant state of near-emergency underfunding, can only afford payroll for a few more weeks if no state budget is passed.

Given those obstacles, it remains to be seen whether the campaign promises of Wolf, and afterward, of Kenney, to improve public education in Philly and Pennsylvania will ever become reality.

2 Will Cosby get punished?

This has been the year where everything good that Cheltenham, Pa.-based Bill Cosby ever did has been swallowed up by his alleged proclivity for drugging and sexually abusing young women.

More than 50 accusers have come forward. Mutiple honorary degrees for Cosby have been rescinded. Patrick O'Connor, chair of the Temple University board of trustees and Cosby's lawyer, is facing calls to resign for concealing knowledge of the allegations against Cosby.

But most importantly, newly elected Montgomery County D.A. Kevin Steele and his predecessor Risa Ferman reopened a criminal investigation into a 2004 rape by Cosby which their predecessor, Bruce Castor, declined to prosecute. The investigation is ongoing, but if charges are filed, it could end up with Cosby facing jail time.

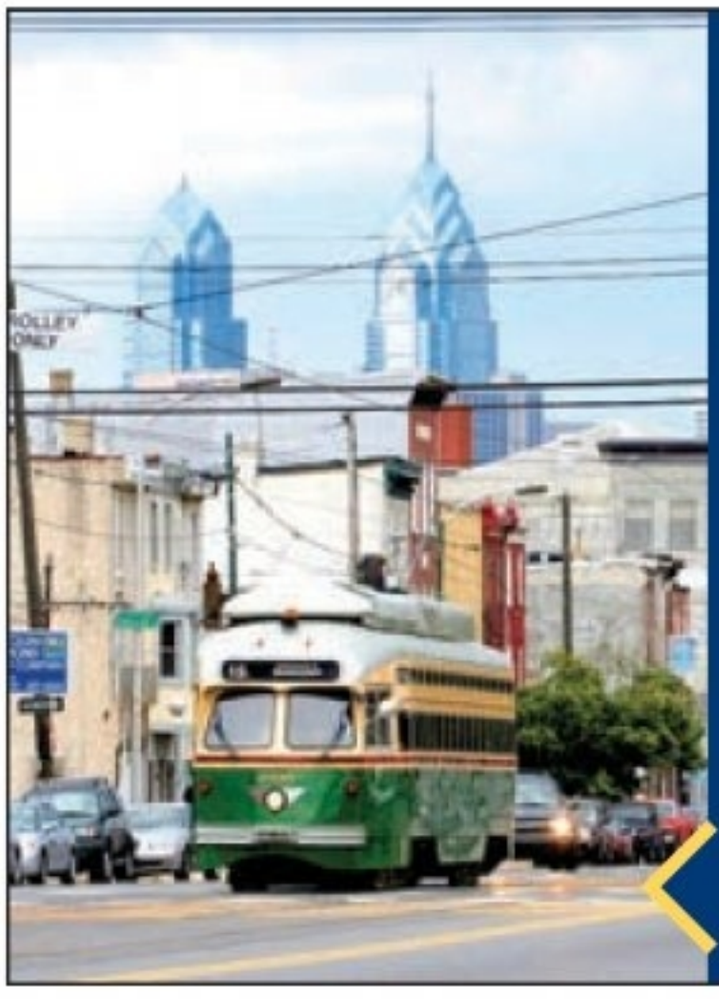
3 How low can Kathleen Kane go?

In 2015, Pennsylvania's first Democratic and first female attorney general Kathleen Kane has been charged with contempt for leaking confidential grand jury information, had her law license suspended and is the subject of state legislature hearings into whether it can vote her out of office. Even Gov. Tom Wolf said she should leave.

Meanwhile, Kane, who claims she is the victim of a conspiracy to conceal offensive emails swapped by state lawyers and judges in the "Porngate" scandal, has released hundreds of unredacted offensive emails sent by her former colleagues.

She claims there are thousands more emails and has vowed to release all of them. She also appointed a special prosecutor to investigate Porngate. One state Supreme Court justice has resigned and another was just suspended over the scandal while there are calls to fire even more.

But regardless of the gigantic practice in misdirection that is Porngate, it's anyone's guess how much longer Kane will stay in office — and out of jail.



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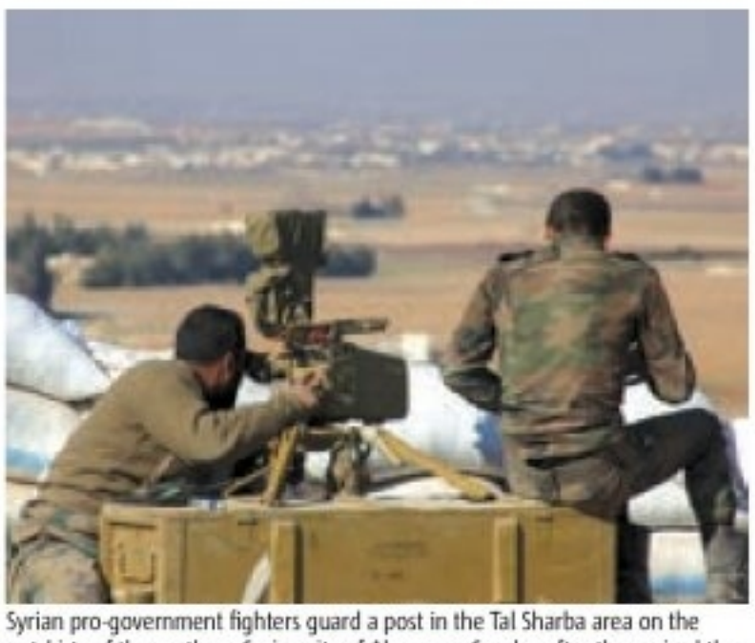
Evacuation of three Syrian towns to go ahead Monday under rare deal: sources

Earlier this month Syrian government officials said they had agreed on a deal for rebel fighters to withdraw from the last insurgent-held area of the city of Homs with their weapons as part of a local cease-fire agreement.



Syrian pro-government fighters guard a post in the Tal Sharba area on the outskirts of the northern Syrian city of Aleppo on Sunday after they seized the area from Islamic State group jihadists. GETTY IMAGES

Besieged rebel fighters in a Syrian border town and families trapped in two Shi'ite towns in northern Syria are expected to be evacuated Monday in the second stage of a rare, U.N.-backed deal between warring sides in Syria's war, sources close to negotiations said.

The deal will allow scores of rebel fighters who have been holed up for months in the town of Zabadani, near the Lebanese border, to have safe passage to Beirut airport to then head for their final destination of Turkey under International Committee of the Red Cross auspices, the sources said.

Simultaneously, around 300 families in two besieged Shi'ite towns in the mainly rebel-held northwestern province of Idlib will be heading in a land convoy to the Turkish border from where they will then fly to Beirut.

The route via Turkey is the safest for the families as traveling through Syria would take them through Idlib, where a patchwork of rebels control different areas.

The U.N. and foreign governments have tried to broker local cease-fires and safe-passage agreements as steps toward the wider goal of ending Syria's civil war, in which more than 250,000 people have been killed in nearly five years of fighting.

Iran and Turkey, which back opposing sides in the Syrian conflict, helped bring about the local cease-fires in Zabadani and in the two villages in Idlib in September in the first phase of the deal.

The Zabadani area had been the focus of an offensive by Lebanese militant group Hezbollah and the Syrian army against insurgent groups. The area is of importance to President Bashar al-Assad because of its proximity to the Syrian capital Damascus and the Lebanese border.

Insurgent groups have in turn launched attacks on the two Shi'ite villages that intensified after most of Idlib province fell to rebels after a series of advances against the army this year. REUTERS

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Pope urges help for Cuban migrants in Central America

Speaking from a window overlooking St. Peter's Square, Francis said many of those stranded were victims of human trafficking.

Pope Francis GETTY IMAGES

Pope Francis urged Central American governments Sunday to find a way to help thousands of U.S.-bound Cuban migrants stranded on the border between Costa Rica and Nicaragua.

Nicaragua has refused to let the growing number of Cubans trying to reach the United States who have become stuck in Costa Rica pass through its territory. About 5,000 Cubans are on the border.

"I ask the countries of the region to generously resume efforts to find a quick solution to this humanitarian drama," he said.

Central America and Mexico have seen a surge in migrants from the Communist-ruled island as the process of a detente between Washington and Havana raises the prospect that U.S. asylum rights for Cubans may soon end.

Last week the Nicaraguan government proposed the U.S. organize an airlift to take the migrants directly from Costa Rica to the United States. The Costa Rican government has tried to persuade Belize and Guatemala to allow the Cubans passage to Mexico.

The plight of migrants is expected to be a main topic of Francis' trip in February to Mexico, where he will say Mass at Ciudad Juarez within meters of the border with Texas.

Earlier on Sunday, Francis said Mass in St. Peter's Basilica for families in Rome marking the Roman Catholic Church's jubilee year. REUTERS

Donald Trump blasts Republican expected to endorse his rival

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump assailed a leading committee chairman in Congress for backing Marco Rubio, Trump's rival for the party's nomination.

Trump, the front-runner in the Republican race, needled Trey Gowdy for his role as chairman of the House of Representatives select committee investigating the 2012 attack in Benghazi, Libya, in which four Americans were killed.

In October, Hillary Clinton, 68, front-runner for the Democratic nomination, calmly deflected committee criticism of her handling of the attack while she was President Barack Obama's secretary of state.

"In total [the committee] was not good for Republicans and the country. I mean beyond Republicans, it was bad for the country. I hope he does a whole lot better for Marco," Trump, 69, said of Gowdy on Fox News' "Fox and Friends."

The conservative news site Townhall reported Gowdy's planned endorsement, and an email from the Rubio campaign confirmed that Gowdy, a South Carolina Republican, would travel with Rubio on the campaign trail this week.

"Marco is a rock-solid conservative and a strong leader we can trust. I look forward to campaigning in Iowa with him, and introducing my good friend to voters across the state," Gowdy said in a statement.

Trump further needled Gowdy online, retweeting a number of messages critical of Gowdy and the committee. "Face it, Trey Gowdy failed miserably on Benghazi. He allowed it to drag out and in the end, let Hillary get away with murder," one user wrote.

Donald Trump GETTY IMAGES

Despite Trump's critique, a Gowdy endorsement could boost Rubio. REUTERS

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Families demand Chicago police, mayor answer for fatal shootings

A federal investigation is underway over the department's use of deadly force and officer discipline.

The families of two black Chicagoans killed by police Sunday accused officers of having used excessive force and Mayor Rahm Emanuel of having failed them, piling pressure on a city facing a U.S. federal probe over possible racial bias in policing.

Police, responding to a domestic disturbance call, shot Quintonio LeGrier, 19, a college student who was visiting his father, and Bettie Jones, a 55-year-old mother of five, Saturday.

Family members said police were called after LeGrier threatened his father with a metal baseball bat. Jones, who lived in a first-floor apartment, was shot through the door, according to her cousin, Evelyn Glover.

Police said LeGrier was being combative. They said Jones was killed by accident and extended their condolences.

"This needs to stop. No mother should have to bury her child," Janet Cooksey, LeGrier's mother, said at a news conference. She said her son was shot seven times. She previously told reporters her son had been suffering from mental illness.

Several people who spoke at the news conference in front of the home wore T-shirts reading, "Rahm Failed Us."

Janet Cooksey listens to speakers talk about the deaths of her son Quintonio LeGrier, and Bettie Jones before the start of a vigil on Sunday. GETTY IMAGES

High-profile killings of black men by U.S. police officers since mid-2014 have triggered waves of protest — including in Chicago, the country's third-largest city — and fueled a civil rights movement under the name Black Lives Matter.

A Chicago police video of the fatal shooting of another black teenager sparked protests last month, with activists demanding the resignation of Emanuel, a former chief of staff to President Barack Obama.

At the news conference, family members wanted to know why police had used lethal force. A vigil for the two was planned for later Sunday.

LeGrier, a sophomore at Northern Illinois University, was home for Christmas and visiting his father, landlord of the two-story wood-frame building where the shooting occurred, they said.

The police department provided scant information, saying an unspecified weapon was recovered and no officers were hurt. Police did not say whether there was a video of the incident and provided no information on the officers involved.

REUTERS

"I used to watch the news daily and I would grieve for other mothers, other family members. Now today, I am grieving for myself. When do we get answers?"

Cooksey

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Buzziest celeb moments of 2015

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

It wasn't a great year for being famous and married, that's for sure.

NED EHRBAR
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The worlds of celebrity and pop culture were filled with plenty of attention-grabbing moments over the course of 2015, and sometimes enough similar ones — like when a long-married celeb couple calls it quits — to constitute a troubling trend. Here's what got our attention this year.

1 The year of the celebrity divorce

Sure, there were some notable weddings this year — hooray, Jennifer Aniston! — but they were greatly overshadowed by the number of married couples that packed it in. From Ben Affleck and Jennifer Garner to Halle Berry and Olivier Martinez, 2015 really looked like the year of knowing when to say when. Heck, "The Voice" judges Gwen Stefani and Blake Shelton even had time to parlay their splits — from Gavin Rossdale and Miranda Lambert, respectively — into a new, camera-friendly romance.

2 Justin Bieber makes a comeback

In 2014, Justin Bieber was Canada's most hated export. But this year, a pop-culture miracle occurred and he is back on top thanks to excessively apologizing and releasing some actually very good new music. Joining forces with Skrillex and Diplo, Bieber's song "What Do You Mean?" debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard Hot 100 charts .

3 The Kardashian family continued to exist

In 2015, Kris and her extended brood — Kanye included — did everything they could to take the "we live in public" mantra to heart — and attempt to steal the thunder of ex Caitlyn Jenner. But did it work? Well, we now know who Tyga is, and Kim K. continues to dominate Instagram and Twitter. Kanye even said he's running for president, and we actually humored him. That's got to count for something.

4 Taylor Swift's overstuffed squad

Taylor Swift hit the road this year for her "1989" tour and decided to use it as a chance to prove to the world that she knows a lot — and we do mean a lot — of famous people, with special cameos on-stage by everyone: the U.S. women's soccer team, Karlie Kloss, Miranda Lambert, Justin Timberlake — the list goes on. But she wasn't impossible to say no to. No less than Patrick Stewart and Ian McKellan were able to resist her charms. And honestly, Jennifer Lawrence and Amy Schumer dancing on Billy Joel's piano felt much more organic.

5 Ariana Grande's doughnut debacle

One way to help make your bubbly young pop-star self seem more relatable to the fans? Showing that you like to get stoned and skulk around doughnut shops, maybe even overstepping your bounds and taste-testing a pastry or two on the counter, as Ariana Grande did in a great 2015 moment caught on camera. Not so helpful in the relatability game? Declaring that you "hate America" after being chastized for your intoxicated behavior.

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The best jawns of 2015

Stand tall, Philly: The Metro team weighs in on what we were most proud of this year.

Spruce Street Harbor Park MATT STANLEY

Rachel Vigoda, entertainment editor

While pride should come from within — and who cares what New York thinks anyway, amirite? — it was pretty cool when the venerable New York Times ranked Philadelphia as No. 3 on its list of 52 places to go in 2015. The newspaper pointed to our lively outdoor scene, from the shiny Dilworth Park to the coveted hammocks of Spruce Street Harbor Park. I'm also excited about how amazing Philly's restaurant scene has become, stretching out beyond the borders of Center City with everything from the best pizza joint in America (thanks, Bon Appetit!) to the almost-daunting bounty of East Passyunk.

Sam Newhouse, senior reporter

Politicians and business leaders were pretty psyched when "cool Pope" Francis announced he was coming to Philly for the World Meeting of Families. Everyone in the city got caught up in Popemania — from amateur Airbnb innkeepers, to craft beer brewers, custom T-shirt makers, ticket scalpers and swag slingers. But once thousands of devout Catholics arrived, everyone learned a little bit about faith in the City of Brotherly Love.

Evan Macy, sports editor

It's a year most Philly sports fans will want to forget, but for Temple alums like myself, and the ever-growing local college football bandwagon, it was a banner year. The Owls were nationally ranked for most of the year, defeated in-state rival Penn State and sold out the Linc (more than 60,000 seats) twice. The college football program is on the upswing and has never had more support around the country.

Jenny DeHuff, reporter

Picture a new, state-of-the-art music hall with a cur-

tain system that expands or retracts depending on the size of the acts. Imagine bottle service and fare as fancy as charcuterie plates served while the shock rock band Gwar plays on stage. That's what we've got with the new Fillmore in Fishtown. The design is described as "steampunk" — a Victorian-era/art nouveau look with exposed brick and Edison bulb chandeliers, housed in the old Ajax Metal Co. building. Fillmore Philadelphia has already hosted some pretty big names in its short time in town, and promises to offer even more in 2016.

Josh Kruger, web producer

This year, Philadelphia celebrated 50 years since one of the first organized American gay rights protests took place right in front of Independence Hall. The days-long party was particularly moving: The U.S. Supreme Court had just legalized same-sex marriage. Edie Windsor, the plaintiff in the case that overturned DOMA, was here. And, James Obergefell, the plaintiff in the landmark marriage ruling, was here, too! It was a wonderful time to get your history straight and nightlife gay. On a different note, we all were bummed about HitchBOT's demise, but the robot's fate got Philly talking about itself — and its values. It was heartening to see the community here express outrage, not just amusement, at the scandal. Even better? Local techies offered to rebuild him. How much more brotherly can you get?

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Top TV moments of 2015

Whether on networks, cable or streaming, there was plenty of great TV to go around this year. Narrowing down the best bits wasn't easy, but here's what we think deserves some proper recognition. NED EHRBAR AND RACHEL RACZKA

1 Amy Schumer's very literal "Last F—able Day"

Leave it to comedy's golden girl to bring together the mega-wattage of Tina Fey and Patricia Arquette to toast Julia Louis-Dreyfus' "last f—able day" in the Season Three premiere of her Comedy Central show. Not only hilarious by nature, it threw astute shade at Hollywood's wild standards for women "of a certain age." Schumer returned the favor later this year, appearing in Fey and Amy Poehler's "Bad Blood" parody on "Saturday Night Live." Double props.

AMC NETWORKS

2 "Mad Men" buys the world a Coke

Sure, the final season of "Mad Men" had many great candidates for awesome moments, but none thrilled in exactly the same poignantly hilarious way as the serene grin that comes of the lantern-jawed mug of Don Draper (Jon Hamm) as his flirtation with New Age hippie nonsense nets him the career comeback he needs.

GETTY IMAGES

3 Meeting Cait

Caitlyn-without-a-K Jenner helped put an important conversation into the mainstream when she gave her first interview to Diane Sawyer in April. "Yes, for all intents and purposes, I am a woman," said the Olympian. The conversation hasn't stopped.

4 Miley, what's good?

The MTV VMAs aren't usually high on our must-see list, but this year's brought beef to a live broadcast when Nicki Minaj called out host Miley Cyrus. Minaj lashed out about Cyrus' remarks to the New York Times, saying that the rapper was being "not too kind" in her Twitter battle with Taylor Swift.

5 Jon Stewart exits "The Daily Show"

Jon Stewart retired from "The Daily Show" in August — but not without a proper sendoff. His finale concluded with one last "moment of zen" and some Bruce Springsteen. Don Draper's final oms may have been meme-worthy, but Stewart's farewell really made an impact.

6 "The Jinx" has the liveliest live mic

Robert Durst is a dirt bag. We all knew that. But it wasn't until a live microphone caught him in the bathroom during the finale of HBO's docu-series "The Jinx" with a whispered notion: "What the hell did I do? Killed them all, of course." Chills.

7 Jon Snow, pin cushion

Fans of the "Game of Thrones" books, enjoy this as your last moment to be smug toward your TV-watching bretheren, because now we're all on the same page. And that page is wondering exactly how fatal those countless stab wounds Jon Snow (Kit Harington) endured from his own treacherous men in the Night's Watch will turn out to be.

8 NBC somehow gets "The Wiz" right

With this fall's "The Wiz," NBC transcended the hate-watching that had become a regular part of its questionable foray into live-broadcast musicals. After a stilted "Sound of Music" and cringe-inducing "Peter Pan," this trip to the Emerald City was downright Tony-worthy. It feels weird to just watch something good.

9 Cookie Lyon rules "Empire"

Fox's music-biz soap "Empire" had plenty of elements to make it an instant guilty pleasure, but none were as effective as the Lady MacBeth of hip-hop, Cookie Lyon (Taraji P. Henson). You do not want to cross her, that's for sure.

10 Anna Chlumsky's epic rant on "Veep"

While Julia Louis-Dreyfus generally — and rightly — gets the spotlight on HBO's pitch-perfect "Veep," junior underling Amy (Anna Chlumsky) let loose in a tirade to end all tirades as she unloaded on a useless sycophant and finally told off her clueless boss in sublime fashion, using language we can't repeat here. Sure, she's been nominated for an Emmy each year the show's been on the air, but this year it's criminal she didn't take home a trophy.

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Top music moments of 2015

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1 Adele says "Hello"

Fans had to wait four years for Adele's new album, but it was worth it. The queen of heartache is breaking all sorts of records. "Hello" sold more than 1.1 million copies in one week, got 27 million Vevo views in one day and was streamed over 2.3 million times in the U.S., knocking One Direction off the top spot.

2 Drake's "Hotline Bling" moves

This was the year fans proved just how much they love Drake, even with his dad dance moves and turtleneck. Hours after the "Hotline Bling" video premiered, a slew of memes went out gently poking fun at him. The rapper is the one who had the last laugh, though — the buzz was enough to generate his 13th No. 1 on the Billboard R&B/hip-hip chart.

3 Katy Perry and Left Shark win the Super Bowl

Missy Elliott and Lenny Kravitz both joined Katy Perry on stage during the Super Bowl this year, but there was someone else on stage who stole the show: a dude in a shark costume who danced to the beat of his own drum. Left Shark gyrated and shimmied his way into hearts across America.

4 Miley hosted the MTV Video Music Awards in 11 different outfits

A lot when down when Miley Cyrus hosted the VMAs. First, she got into a fight on stage with Nicki Minaj (see our TV list). Then, she released a surprise album that everyone could get free online. And she did it all wearing 11 really ridiculous, revealing outfits.

5 Kendrick Lamar wins over all with "To Pimp a Butterfly"

The buzz for Kendrick Lamar's album kicked in months before its release, but when it came out a month early, it dominated music blogs for weeks with extensive praise from fans and critics. The album landed the top spot on the Billboard Top 200 chart and sold more than 323,000 units in a week. Lamar gave a moving speech at a New York City concert to show his appreciation: "Making this album was therapy not only for you, but for me. Y'all allowed it to be top tier without a constant radio single. So that proves to you that right there, music is not something that you can market all of the time. This s— belongs to you, and you only." EMILY LAURENCE

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The 10 best films of 2015

This was a great year for movies. These were our favorites.

MATT PRIGGE
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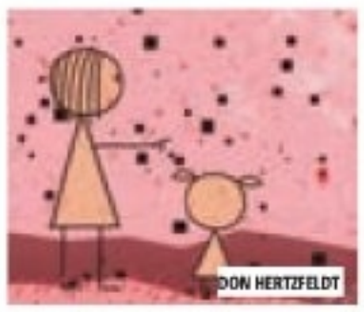
1 "Mad Max: Fury Road"

Not only is it big-screen movie-making at its most spectacular and crazy (Hedgehog cars! Flamethrower guitars! Gout!), George Miller's return to his postapocalyptic fantasia is an angry feminist salvo, too, featuring independent women fighting against their old male oppressors in a blaze of glory.

2 "The Mend"

The year's most thrillingly unpredictable movie, John Magary's hilarious indie is an odd-couple comedy about very different brothers (scuzzy Josh Lucas and uptight ticking time bomb Stephen Plunkett) barely holding it together. It's as tightly wound as its two characters, and the whole thing seems like a primal scream that will never stop.



3 "World of Tomorrow"

One of the year's best films runs only 17 minutes, but it contains the world's mysteries. The latest from Don Hertzfeldt, animation's great stick figure depresso, peers into a ridiculous future to remind us of humanity's short shelf life.

7 "Experimenter"

Michael Almereyda's renegade biopic takes a deceptively just-the-facts approach to Stanley Milgram (Peter Sarsgaard), the social psychologist (in)famous for his experiments involving obedience. You may think you have it figured out before its very final moment throws you for a loop.

4 "Magic Mike XXL"

The first "Magic Mike" was fairly serious. The sequel to Steven Soderbergh's male stripper saga is not. It's a hilarious, fleshy comedy complete with a Backstreet Boys-backed strip-off. But the fun is bittersweet.

8 "Heaven Knows What"

"Heaven" gets so close to NYC's homeless addicts that most of the cast was real. Based on the life of its thrilling star, Arielle Holmes, filmmakers, Ben and Joshua Safdie's indie miraculously avoids any of the cliches about movies about the down and out.

5 "Saint Laurent"

The wildest of the recent Yves Saint Laurent movies isn't a snoozy Wikipedia biopic. In fact, you'll learn few things about the fashion god. You will, however, get lost in his most decadent and trashy period, soaking up a party that will eventually have to end.

9 "Carol"

Detached yet passionate, Todd Haynes' '50s lesbian romance depicts love from a practical perspective, with characters forced to navigate a landmine-strewn road to happiness. When things finally turn romantic, it all feels like it's been earned through grit and perseverance.

6 "Eden"

Sold as a body-moving look at electronic music in the early Daft Punk era, Mia Hansen-Love's epic — about a DJ who ages out of his profession — is the rare music film about those who never made it. It's a sad antidote to all those success stories that feed us lies.

10 "The Look of Silence"

Joshua Oppenheimer's second film about the Indonesian genocide of the '60s is less of an attention-grab than "The Act of Killing." But it's possibly even more vital and haunting, and both films force us to rethink the way we deal with "evil."

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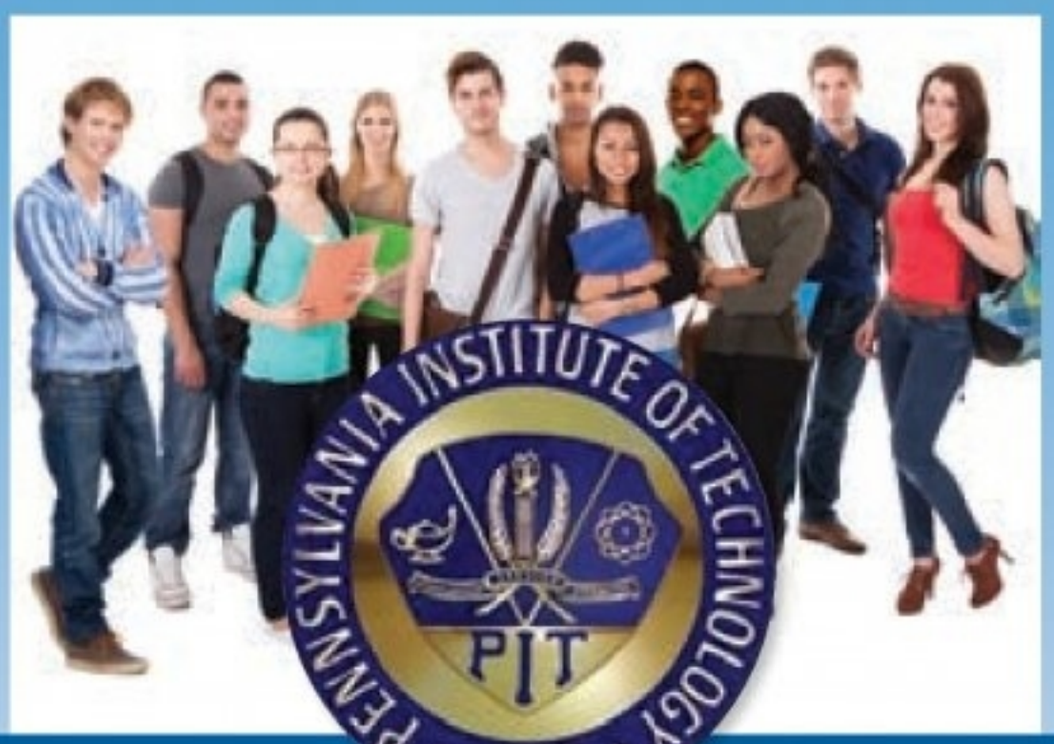

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Norma Kamali, Daniella Yacobovsky, Erica Hill and Sarah Robb O'Hagan PROVIDED

jobs & education

HOW TO GET AHEAD

Inspiring advice from successful #girlbosses

Designer Norma Kamali, Equinox President Sarah Robb O'Hagan and BaubleBar co-founder Daniella Yacobovsky say you should take a vacation.

RAQUEL LANERI
@RaquelLaneri
raquel.laneri@metro.us

It's hard out there for a lady in business (what with the wage gap, persistent gender biases and poor maternity leave options). That's why it's so important for women to support other women in their careers.

As part of a recent Women Helping Women breakfast, nonprofit Dress for Success — which provides professional attire and networking services to disadvantaged women — invited three badass women to talk about their careers.

Moderated by news anchor Erica Hill, the panel of #girlbosses included designer Norma Kamali, who has maintained her own independent fashion label for 40 years; Sarah Robb O'Hagan, president of Equinox Fitness; and Daniella Yacobovsky, co-founder of online jewelry boutique BaubleBar. Here's what we learned from them.

Don't try to conform

O'Hagan has worked in lots of male-dominated companies, from Nike and Gatorade to Equinox, where she's president, and she says at first she felt incredible pressure to conform.

"But fitting in is not what brings innovation," she says. "You might think, 'My boss wants me to do this, or think like this,' but the truth is your boss wants the business to succeed." And you can only do that by pushing through new ideas. "That's what benefits the economy. Be yourself."

One thing at a time

Nowadays, there's a lot of emphasis on multitasking and moving quickly. "I really have to tell myself to slow down," says Yacobovsky, who launched BaubleBar with her best friend from Harvard Business School. "Be all-in in the one thing you're doing."

O'Hagan says the same thinking can be applied to switching jobs. "Millennials often don't stay long enough in a company," she says. "Brands are like families — you have to honor heritage and tradition, but also bring in the new and experiment. If you're constantly going onto the next thing, you can't really effect change or make your mark. And you can't learn from the others there."

Aim high

Kamali — whose fashion innovations include the "sleeping bag coat" and 3D-film runway shows — says writing a to-do list with actionable goals isn't enough for her.

"The point is creating dreams that you think you may not accomplish, because the road to trying to accomplish those dreams is the accomplishment. Even if you don't do what you set out to, you'll be able to accomplish more than you ever thought, and perhaps come up with something entirely new."

Work-life balance

All three say they can get a little work-obsessed, and that while it's good to be passionate about your job, it's essential to take a breather now and then. "Employees bring much more to their businesses when they're out doing things they are interested in," says O'Hagan.

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10 Sports moments of 2015

The year wasn't a total loss. Remember Cole Hamels' no-no?

EVAN MACY
@evan_macy
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It's been a year to forget, for the most part, as all four local major sports franchises have hit low points. But there were some memories — many of them good — that we will always remember.

Cole Hamels and the fragments of the 2008 World Championship team gave a few more special moments in 2015. GETTY IMAGES

1 Cole Hamels throws no-hitter

Cole Hamels will be remembered for two main accomplishments during his fruitful time as a Phillie. The first, winning World Series MVP in 2008. The second, no-hitting the Cubs during his final start in a Phillies uniform. You couldn't have scripted it better.

2 Chip ascends to Eagles GM

Little did we know it at the time, but when Jeffrey Lurie gave the keys to the Eagles to Chip Kelly, our world was about to be flipped upside down.

3 Temple football emerges

The Owls were a laughing-stock in Philly for decades, but in 2015 everything changed. Seven straight wins to start the year (including one over Penn State), a multitude of national rankings and one of the most memorable ESPN College GameDay episodes in history. A bowl loss doesn't take away from what was a banner year for the program.

4 Phillies trade Utley, Hamels

The memory of the 2008 World Series continues to fade, and was put further in the rear view as the Phils, desperate to rebuild, traded two of the best players in franchise history during the regular season in Chase Utley and Cole Hamels.

5 Eagles have wild offseason

The Eagles swapped LeSean McCoy for Kiko Alonso, swapped Nick Foles for Sam Bradford, decided not to re-sign Jeremy Maclin, and spent big money on DeMarco Murray and Byron Maxwell amid rumors of racism.

6 76ers tank rolls on with Okafor

The Sixers surprised many when they took a third young big man in Duke's Jahlil Okafor at No. 3 back in June. They surprised no one at all when they won just one game during his first three months here.

7 Flyers fire Breube, hire Hakstol

The Flyers took a chance on a college coach, Dave Hakstol, and it appears to be slowly paying off as the Flyers have grinded their way into relevancy during the first few months of the NHL season.

8 Eagles shock Patriots

Philly, on the brink of ending their playoff hopes following three straight losses to bad teams, shocked the NFL with a crazy win in New England over the Patriots in Week 13. The win kept them in the midst of the race for the futile NFC East.

9 Villanova gets upset (again)

The Wildcats, ranked as high as second during the 2014-15 season, were bounced in the third round by NC State in a thoroughly disappointing end to a fantastic season.

10 Rookies make impact

With terrible records in the standings, Philly sports fans were given hope by the promising play of young rookies on all four teams; Flyers' Shayne Gostisbehere, Phillies' Maikel Franco, Eagles' Jordan Hicks and Sixers' Jahlil Okafor.

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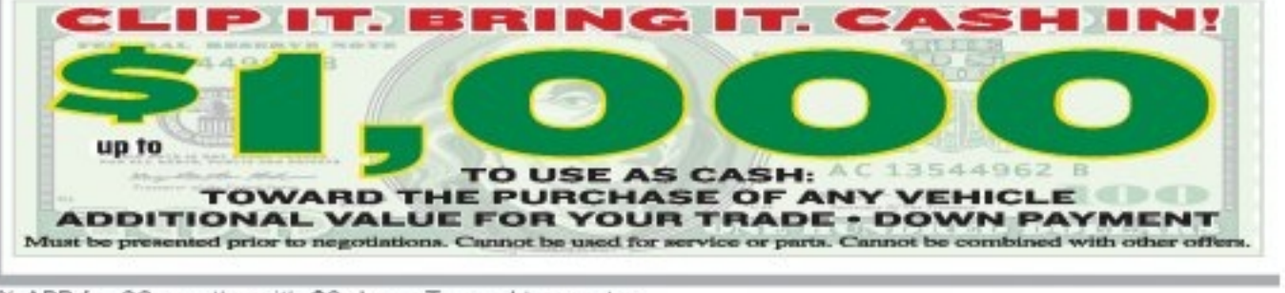
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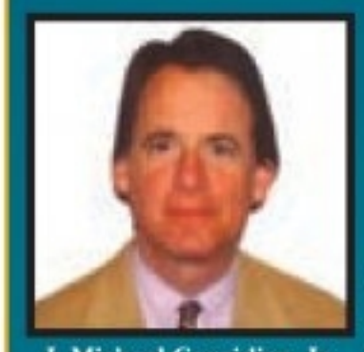

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Good Riddance to 2015, the worst year in Philadelphia sports since 1972.

That's when the Sixers went 9-73, the Flyers got knocked out of a playoff spot with four seconds left in the regular season and Dick Allen finally won an MVP Award — playing for the White Sox.

This coming calendar year has to be better than the dreck we just endured. Has to. We've never endured a two-year post-season drought, so one of these four franchises must make the playoffs. I just can't tell you with any confidence which one it might be.

Anyway, it's always easier to look back than to project the future. So here are the worst and best from each of our teams from 2015.

Phillies

The worst

Ninety-nine losses provide endless opportunities for dreadful moments. But the most painful ongoing story of 2015 was watching the shadow of Chase Utley trying to play baseball. That wasn't "The Man" hitting .118 through mid-May and stumbling around second base in red pinstripes. That was some elderly imposter. We were saddened, but also relieved, when Utley was shipped to Los Angeles in August for two mid-prospects whom we may never hear from again. Here's hoping 2016 brings us similar relief from watching the carcasses of franchise legends Ryan Howard and Carlos Ruiz.

The best

June 27, the day Ryne Sandberg quit as manager. It was the clearing out of bad rubbish for the Phils. And it led to the news conference where we learned that part-owner John Middleton and incoming president Andy MacPhail were now taking the stale franchise in a new direction. It may take a while to see results, but this change all seems for the better.

It was a rough year for everyone playing for, and rooting for, the Phillies this past season. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

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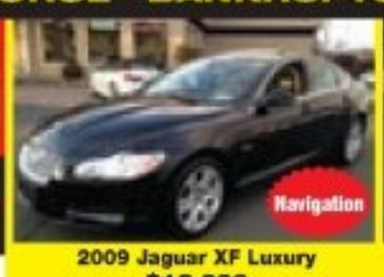

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GOOD RIDDANCE TO 2015

Flyers

The worst

Former coach Craig Berube's mishandling of Steve Mason baffled everyone throughout the 2014-15 season. It came to a head in March when Berube pushed out Mason's guru, goalie coach Jeff Reese. A few nights later, the head coach pulled and humiliated his goalie in Calgary after a screened shot eluded Mason. It was a disloyal, panicky and counterproductive move. And it contributed to Berube losing his team — and ultimately, his job.

The best

In his fourth NHL game, on Nov. 17, Shayne Gostisbehere blasted a shot from the point to beat All-Star goalie Jonathan Quick for his first career goal. "The Ghost" is exactly what the Flyers have long needed — a young power-play quarterback with creativity and incendiary skills. It says here that he will be the city's next superstar.

Eagles

The worst

Chip Kelly first flexed his GM muscles between March 10-12 and tore up a team that won 20 games the prior two seasons. Six new players came in. LeSean McCoy left. We're still up in the air on Sam Bradford, and not unhappy with Walter Thurmond or Ryan Mathews. But there's no doubt the moves for DeMarco Murray, Kiko Alonso and Byron Maxwell have been disastrous. Those three days in March started the rock tumbling downhill.

The best

The Eagles went to New England on Dec. 6 at 4-7 and about to be drubbed from the playoff race. But touchdowns on a blocked punt, interception and punt return — along with a clean game by Bradford — put them back in the thick of the NFC East. It didn't hurt that Tom Brady had no weapons and that Bill Belichick coached his worst game in a decade.

76ers

The worst

Hey, they're on pace for a 3-81 record this season, so how do you pick one episode? But I'll go with this: All the high hopes for potential franchise changer Jahlil Okafor came into question Thanksgiving week when we learned he had been in two bar fights, had a gun pulled on him and drove over the Ben Franklin Bridge at 108 mph.

The best

The hiring of Jerry Colangelo on Dec. 7 to tow this broken-down truck out of the mud suggests we are nearing the end of that nightmare known as "The Process." Colangelo has since brought in Mike D'Antoni as an assistant coach, explaining that the franchise desperately needs more experienced basketball minds. The bet here is that Sam Hinkie is no longer with the Sixers when this column gets written next December. And that will be cause to celebrate.

So happy New Year, everyone. As I said, the coming year has to be better than 2015.

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NOTICE OF STATED MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the first **Regular Stated Meeting of City Council** for 2016 is scheduled for **Monday, January 4, 2016** at **10:00 AM.** This Meeting will be held at the **Academy of Music, Broad and Locust Streets, Philadelphia, PA.**

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2016 NOTICE OF VACANT PROPERTY REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Vacant Property Review Committee will meet in the Caucus Room, (Room 401, City Hall) from 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. on the following dates:

Tuesday, January 12, 2016	Tuesday, July 12, 2016
Tuesday, February 9, 2016	Tuesday, August 9, 2016
Tuesday, March 8, 2016	Tuesday, September 13, 2016
Tuesday, April 12, 2016	Tuesday, October 11, 2016
Tuesday, May 10, 2016	Tuesday, November 15, 2016
Tuesday, June 14, 2016	Tuesday, December 13, 2016

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Public Auction

12 E Oregon Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19148 on 1/18/16 @ 11:15AM

The following self storage units will be sold to the highest bidder to satisfy the owner's lien for rent under 73 P.S. 1901 ET. Seq. Auction is with reserve. Devon Self Storage reserves the right to set minimum bids and to refuse bids. CASH ONLY. Contents must be removed within 24 hours. Auctioneer - Philip T. Cline PA License AU005598

Unit Name Contents**

1146 Mastro, Jeffrey HH • 1304 Schaber, Ralph HH, M • 1444 Barraco, Cassandra HH, F, B
1027 Fournier, William HH • 2053 Igartua, Candida HH, C, F • 2173 Gessleman, Raymond L HH, F, B
2407A Johnson, Darren J HH, C, F • 2489 Bell, Lauryn HH, F, B • 2501 Doiel, Dianna M HH, F, B

**Key: HH – Household; F – Furniture; M – Metal; C – Clothing; B – Boxes

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Last Word Standing

Use the clues to cross out the words in the boxes. One word will be left over. This last word standing is the mystery answer.

CLUES:
All things worn above the waist
All state symbols of Maine
All types of dance
All car makes
All musical instruments
All breakfast cereals
All words that contain J
All anagrams of 'caret'

Marimba		Cap
Vest	Zither	Moxie
Waltz	Trace	Cheerios
Muesli	Anorak	Crate
Moose	Hoedown	Trix
Chrysler	Nissan	Project
Cater	Blueberry	Minuet
Sitar	Pizza	Ford
Cajole		Jalopy

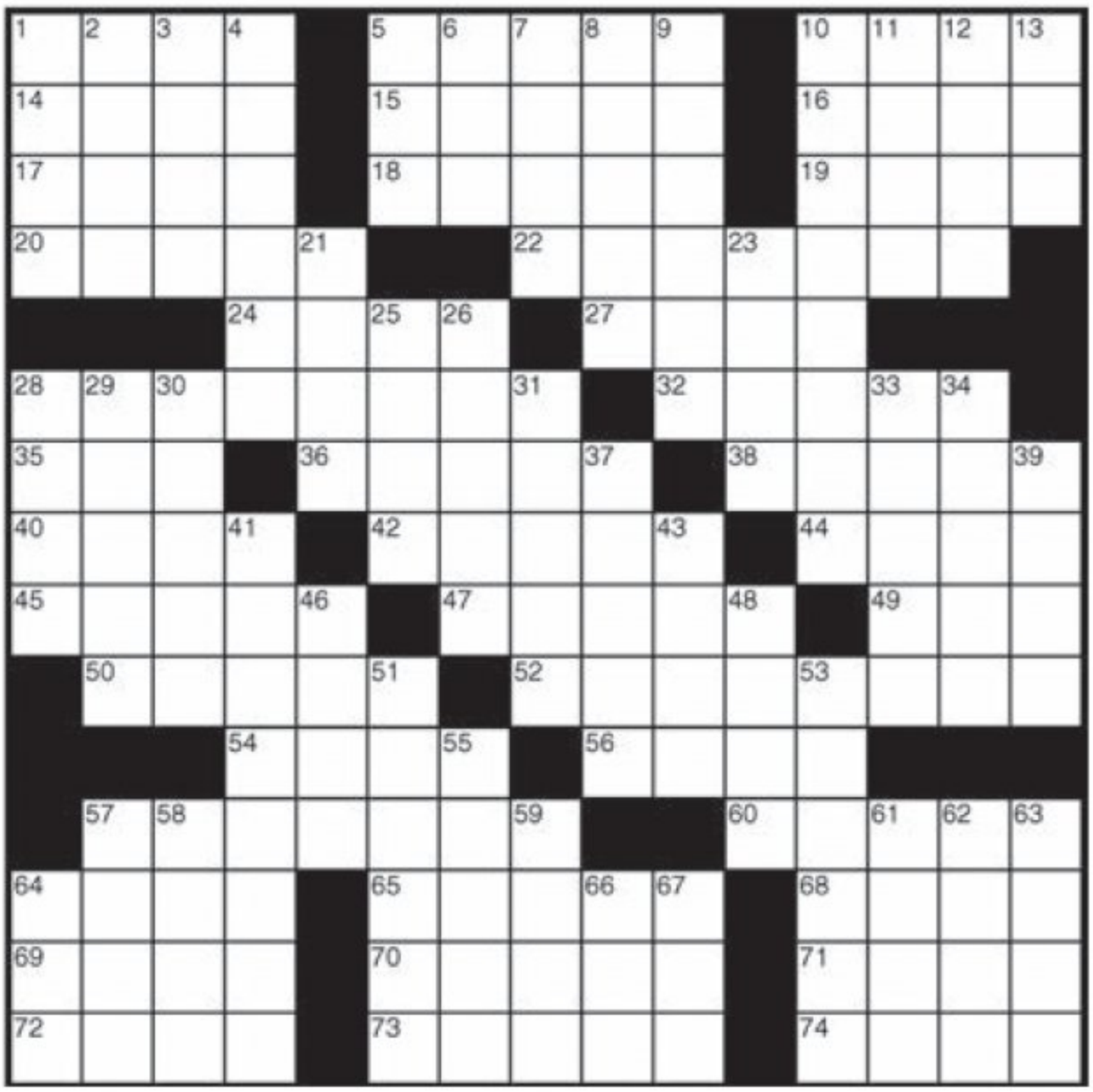
© Lovatts Puzzles

metro.us/crossword

Across
1 Folk follower
5 Woofs' partners
10 Peat sources
14 Lab medium
15 Not touching
16 Oops! (hyph.)
17 — vu
18 Fake drake
19 Bus route
20 B-vitamin source
22 Year-end crackler (2 wds.)
24 Toward sunup
27 Sell cheap
28 Roars, as the wind
32 Do finger painting
35 Ad — (wing it)
36 Kahuna's hello
38 Altiplano locale
40 Beep
42 Rolls tightly
44 Lean
45 Kind of mail
47 Ball-gown fabric
49 Back when
50 Fiery horse
52 — — Wenceslas
54 Hecklers' chorus
56 Summer job seeker
57 "— Got Run Over by a Reindeer"
60 Alcove
64 Obi-Wan player
65 Roof part
68 Empathize
69 Paycheck interval
70 Jostle
71 Roll-call yell
72 Cartoon shrieks
73 Metamorphic rock
74 Lean toward

Down
1 Countess's title
2 S-shaped molding
3 Hindu prince
4 Rubs out
5 Gob of bubblegum
6 Mimic
7 Off-color
8 Haughty
9 Wax-tablet pen
10 Ball teams have two
11 Part of B&O
12 NBC's "The — Show"
13 Hen or mare
21 Bye, in Bristol (hyph.)
23 Mrs. Peel
25 Egotist's love
26 Brook catch
28 Diner sandwiches
29 Wildebeest chasers
30 Kapitan's command (hyph.)
31 Shoulder gesture
33 Ike beat him twice
34 Get crowned
37 Mete out
39 Urban woe
41 Curtain cords (hyph.)
43 — -eyed
46 Boxer — Spinks
48 Blissful spot
51 Avoids
53 Joust competitor
55 Diminutive
57 Unbounded joy
58 Smell awful
59 "SOS" group
61 Hudson Bay tribe
62 Fearsome cape
63 Was very thrifty
64 Blow away
66 Realty offering
67 Pasture grazer

FOR THE ANSWERS
metro.us/games



games

metro.us/horoscopes

Aries If someone is giving you a hard time, the best way to handle the situation is to present yourself and what you do with confidence.

Taurus Give friends and loved ones your undivided attention. Sharing ideas and making social plans will boost your morale and inspire you to do well.

Gemini Reminiscing can be enlightening, but don't live in the past. It's important to learn from experience so that you can move forward.

Cancer It's important to take care of your health. Use your intelligence to ward off any negative influences or argumentative people.

Leo Put an end to old habits. Find something you enjoy doing that will contribute to your health and wellness. Once you get started, it will be easy.

Virgo You have a lot to give and plenty to gain if you participate in events that offer both personal incentives and a different point of view.

Libra Keep your opinions to yourself. Avoiding an altercation with someone is in your best interest. Use your energy to make personal physical improvements.

Scorpio Whatever you do, give it your all. Put your skills and knowledge to the test and offer to do something extraordinary for a friend.

Sagittarius Invest more time into honing your skills. You can bring about positive change, but first you have to have everything in place.

Capricorn You will be appreciated and rewarded for all the little extras you do for friends. You'll be offered information that will benefit a cause.

Aquarius Make your health a priority. Sign up for something that will challenge you physically. Express the way you feel in order to resolve a matter.

Pisces Check in with people from your past who you feel can contribute to something. Help is just a phone call away. EUGENIA LAST

metro.us/sudoku

easy

	1					9		8
		5	8		2		7	6
							3	4
	5			7	4			
	4		5	8	9		6	
			1	2			4	
9	6							
8	2		6		1	3		
5		3					9	

hard

				3				
	2			7			9	
7		9	8		5			
	9	5				1	6	7
	7	8				9	2	
1	6	2				3	5	
			7		3	6		1
	8			4			7	
				6				

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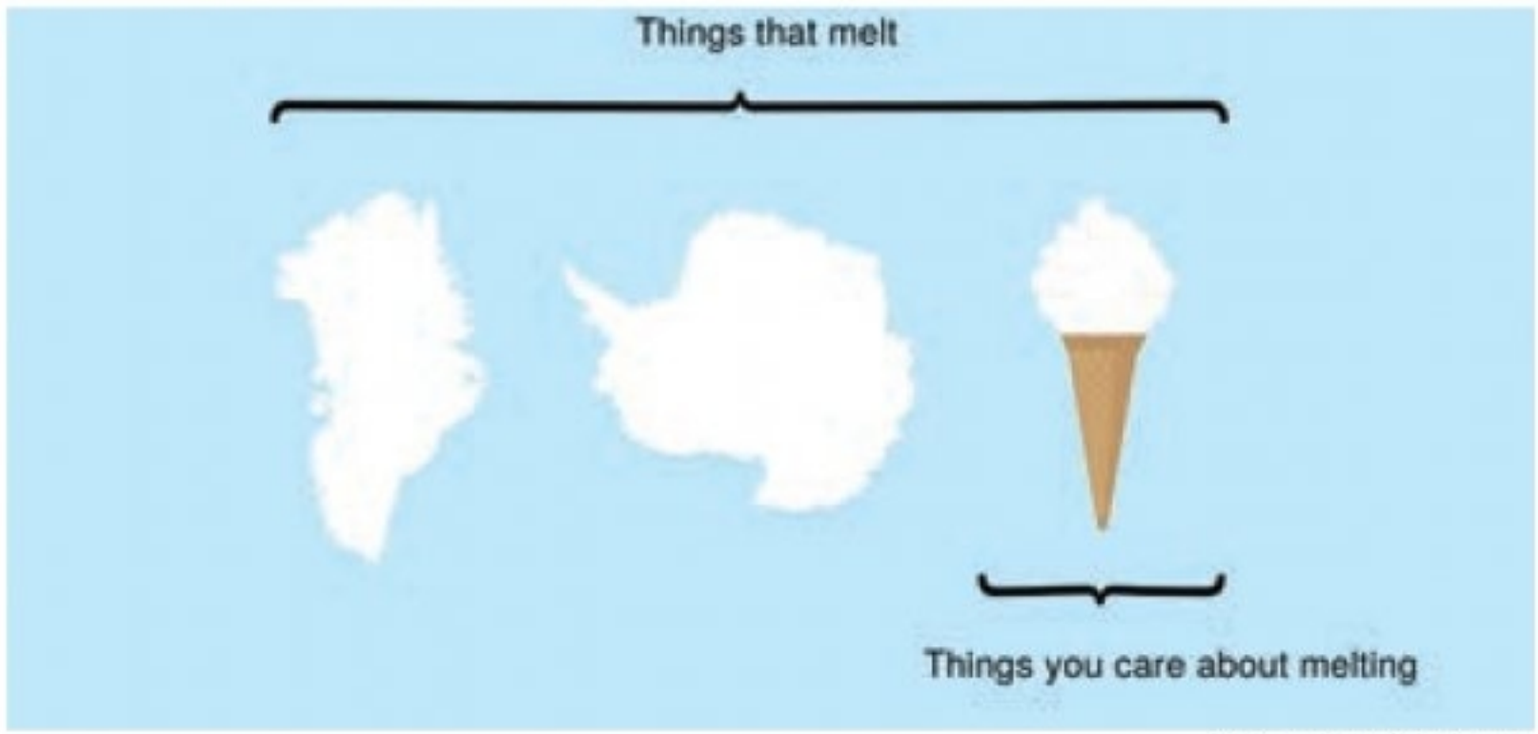

BY WULFF & MORGENTHALER

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